

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 19, 2008, has been received and its contents carefully noted. The pending claims, claims 1-7, 9 and 11-19, were rejected. By this Response, claims 1, 17 and 19 have been amended. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as the phrase "clarifying the clinical specimens from containment" rendered the claims indefinite.

Applicants have changed "containment" to --contaminant-- in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the term "containment" is an obvious typographical error and that the term "contaminant" was intended. Applicants respectfully submit that the term "contaminant" as used in the claims is clear and definite.

The Examiner also rejected claims 17 and 19 as being indefinite for reciting improper Markush groups

Applicants have amended claim 17 to make clear that the kit comprises both the recited primers. Applicants have amended claim 19 to make clear that the primer set comprises both the recited primers.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are clear and definite. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should properly be withdrawn.

Request for Interview

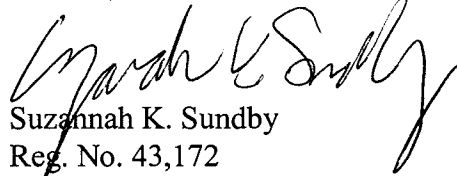
Applicants respectfully request either a telephonic or an in-person interview should there be any remaining issues.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Attorney Docket No. 041144.010.**

Respectfully submitted,
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